

M.R. 3140

**IN THE  
SUPREME COURT  
OF  
THE STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Order entered September 14, 2018.

(Deleted material is struck through, and new material is underscored.)

Effective immediately, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 702 is amended, as follows. Additionally, on June 8, 2018, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 704 was amended, with an effective date of January 1, 2019. Rule 704 remains so amended but shall instead be effective on March 1, 2019, modified *nunc pro tunc* to June 8, 2018.

**Amended Rule 702**

**Rule 702. Board of Admissions to the Bar**

(a) The Board of Admissions to the Bar shall oversee the administration of all aspects of bar admissions in this State including the character and fitness process. The Board shall consist of seven members of the bar, appointed by the Supreme Court to serve staggered terms of three years. ~~In addition, the Supreme Court shall appoint a dean of a law school located in Illinois as a non-voting *ex officio* member of the board to serve a term of three years.~~ Each member shall serve until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified. No member may be appointed to more than three full consecutive terms. In addition, the Supreme Court shall appoint a dean of a law school located in Illinois as a nonvoting, *ex officio* member of the Board. The law school dean *ex officio* member shall serve a single term of three years.

(b) A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum. A president and vice-president shall be designated by the Supreme Court and may serve only one three-year term. A secretary and treasurer shall be annually elected by the members of the Board. One member may hold the office of both secretary and treasurer.

(c) The Board shall appoint, with the approval of the Supreme Court, a Director of Administration to serve as the Board's principal executive officer. The Director of Administration, with the Board's approval, may hire sufficient staff as necessary to assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities.

(d) The Board shall audit annually the accounts of its treasurer and shall report to the Court at each November term a detailed statement of its finances, together with such recommendations as shall seem advisable. All fees paid to the Board in excess of its expenses shall be applied as the Court may from time to time direct.

Amended June 12, 1992, effective July 1, 1992; amended December 30, 1993, effective January 1, 1994; amended Dec. 5, 2012, eff. Jan. 1, 2013; amended March 23, 2015, eff. July 1, 2015; amended Nov. 18, 2016, eff. immediately; amended Sept. 14, 2018, eff. immediately.

**FILED**

**SEP 14 2018**

**SUPREME COURT  
CLERK**

## **Modified Rule 704**

### **Rule 704. Qualification on Examination**

(a) Every applicant for the Illinois bar examination shall file with the Board of Admissions to the Bar both a character and fitness registration application and a separate application to take the bar examination. The applications shall be in such form as the Board shall prescribe and shall be subject to the fees and filing deadlines set forth in Rule 706.

(b) In the event the character and fitness registration application and the separate application to take the bar examination shall be satisfactory to the Board, the applicant shall be admitted to the examination; provided, however, that the following applicants must first receive certification of good moral character and general fitness to practice law by the Committee on Character and Fitness pursuant to Rule 708 before they will be permitted to write the bar examination: (1) applicants who have been convicted of felonies; (2) applicants against whom are pending indictments, criminal informations, or criminal complaints charging felonies; (3) applicants who have been rejected, or as to whom hearings are pending, in another jurisdiction on a ground related to character and fitness; or (4) applicants admitted to practice in another jurisdiction who have been reprimanded, censured, disciplined, suspended or disbarred in such other jurisdiction or against whom are pending disciplinary charges or proceedings in that jurisdiction.

(c) The Board of Admissions to the Bar shall conduct separate examinations on academic qualification and professional responsibility. At least two academic qualification examinations shall be conducted annually, one in February and the other in July, or at such other times as the Board, in its discretion, may determine. At least three professional responsibility examinations shall be conducted annually, one in March, another in August, and another in November, or at such other times as the Board, in its discretion, may determine. The Board may designate the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination of the National Conference of Bar Examiners as the Illinois professional responsibility examination. The Board may determine the score that constitutes a passing grade.

(d) The academic qualification examination shall be conducted under the supervision of the Board. The Illinois bar examination shall be the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) prepared by the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

(e) In the event the Board of Admissions to the Bar shall find that an applicant has achieved a passing score, as determined by the Board, on the academic and professional responsibility examinations, meets the requirements of these rules, and has received from the Committee on Character and Fitness its certification of good moral character and general fitness to practice law, the Board shall certify to the Court that these requirements have been met; the Board may also transmit to the Court any additional information or recommendation it deems appropriate.

(f) For all persons taking the bar examination after the effective date of this rule, a passing score on the Illinois bar examination is valid for four years from the last date of the examination. An applicant for admission on examination who is not admitted to practice within four years must repeat and pass the examination after filing the requisite character and fitness registration and bar examination applications and paying the fees therefor in accordance with Rule 706.

Amended effective October 2, 1972; amended April 8, 1980, effective May 15, 1980; amended June

19, 1987, effective immediately; amended June 12, 1992, effective July 1, 1992; amended May 7, 1993, effective immediately; amended July 1, 1998, effective immediately; amended July 6, 2000, effective immediately; amended December 6, 2001; effective immediately; amended October 2, 2006, effective July 1, 2007; amended June 8, 2018, eff. ~~Jan.~~ Mar. 1, 2019.